

## SWEDISH AIDE HUNT PRESSED

Soviet Promise To Continue  
Search, Erlander Says

Moscow, April 3 (AP)—The Soviet Government has promised to continue inquiry into the fate of the Swedish diplomat and Red Cross representative, Raoul Wallenberg, who disappeared in Budapest in 1945. Prime Minister Tage Erlander of Sweden said today.

A demand for investigation of Wallenberg's disappearance reportedly was one of Erlander's main purposes on his current visit to the Soviet Union.

The Wallenberg case long has been a political issue in Sweden and is one of the few flaws in Sweden's relations with the Soviet Government.

### Sign Joint Communiqué

Erlander announced the Soviet promise shortly before he and Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin signed a joint communiqué concerning Erlander's visit.

The communiqué text was not released immediately, but the Swedish leader revealed most of its terms to newsmen earlier. The document signed was not an agreement but simply a news release.

The Soviet promise to Erlander represents its first public acknowledgment of Wallenberg's disappearance since he was reported taken into custody in January, 1945, by the Red Army then occupying Hungary.

He had helped save the lives of thousands of Jews and other victims of the Nazis in Hungary who had been herded together in a ghetto in Budapest. He provided them with special documents which prevented their execution by the Nazis or allowed them to flee westward.

### Under Arrest In 5 Days

When the Soviet armies entered the fallen city, they found Wallenberg and his protégés, but five days later he was under arrest by Soviet secret police. Several weeks later officials in Stockholm were told Wallenberg was not under arrest but in protective custody because of the "folly" he committed after Budapest's liberation.

Since then, the Swedish Government, Wallenberg's family—an old and distinguished one in Sweden—and private organizations have sought vainly to learn what happened to him. The Swedish Government has assembled a heavy file of unofficial reports by refugees and released prisoners who claimed to have seen Wallenberg in various prison and labor camps behind the Iron Curtain, but Soviet authorities have been silent.

In 1949, the citizens of Budapest erected a monument to Wallenberg depicting him as a St. George killing a swastika-headed dragon.

Erlander said the Soviet officials with whom he had conferred here assured him their Government, too, had been investigating Wallenberg's disappearance after he was "rescued" by the Red Army in Hungary.

"The Soviet Government has promised to continue its investigation in the hope of finding a solution to the problem," he said.

Asked whether he was certain Wallenberg is alive, Erlander answered only: "If I knew, we would not be negotiating so hard."

Erlander and his party are to leave Moscow on a tour of two southern republics of the Soviet Union, Georgia and Armenia. They are the first foreigners permitted to visit Georgia since reports several weeks ago of disorders there in the wake of official criticism and denunciations of Joseph V. Stalin.

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